

OPERATION MASS DECON – FULL-SCALE EXERCISE VOLUNTEER BRIEFING SHEET FOR WORCESTER HOSPITALS

Thank you for support of Operation MassDecon, a homeland security exercise program sponsored by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. This exercise is intended to provide representative communities and state agencies the opportunity to evaluate their current capacity for elements of response to a mass contamination event, as may result from an act of terrorism.

The purpose of this message is to request your assistance in providing volunteers to serve as victims for the Operation MassDecon full-scale exercise on September 17, 2005 to be held at Green Hill Park in Worcester. In order to provide the responders – law enforcement, fire service, EMS, hospitals and others – with a realistic test, it is necessary to “populate” the Operation MassDecon Full-Scale Exercise with volunteer victims. Volunteers are a critical element of any full-scale exercise. Enthusiastic, well-prepared volunteers present emergency responders with real-world challenges and stressors that they will face during an actual incident. The Operation MassDecon stakeholders will derive greater benefit from the exercise because of volunteers like you.

Volunteers for the three Worcester hospitals will start the exercise at Green Hill Park in Worcester. The remaining volunteers will be pre-staged (self-reporting) at a designated time to the eleven regional hospitals in the surrounding communities. Worcester hospital volunteers will be briefed the morning of the exercise at Green Hill Park. Regional hospital volunteers will be briefed by members of the exercise support staff assigned to the regional hospitals. All volunteers transported to the three Worcester hospitals will be picked up and returned to Green Hill Park by buses at the end of the exercise.

Important Volunteer Information:

- For volunteers, the entire exercise should last between 6 and 8 hours, depending on the details of the role they are playing and to which hospitals they are assigned.
- Volunteers for the three Worcester hospitals should report to **UMass Memorial – University Campus on September 17, 2005 in Worcester at 7:00 am**. Directions and specific parking lot information will be available on our website shortly.
- Busses will transport volunteers from the parking lot to the check-in site at Green Hill Park. Busses will transport volunteers from Green Hill Park back to the UMass Memorial – University Campus parking lot at the conclusion of the exercise, between 2:00 and 3:00 pm.
- Lunch will be provided to all volunteers.
- Volunteers are asked to wear a bathing suit under old clothes and bring an extra set of clothing, as clothes may get wet during the exercise.
- This exercise has been approved by OEMS for 8 hours of continuing education credit for EMTs at all levels who volunteer as patients.
- For more information, please visit our exercise website at <http://web.pcgus.com/massdecon/>. The Username is **massdecon** and the Password is **zones**. Or call our toll-free MassDecon project hotline at **1-888-623-5517**.

Volunteers for the Operation MassDecon Full-Scale Exercise should be aware of the following:

- **Safety of participants, particularly volunteers, is the paramount exercise priority**
- Exercise support staff will simulate the Mass Decontamination Level C incident in Green Hill Park. This aspect of the exercise is for the benefit of the first responders. This activity may be stressful for those volunteers who are starting in the park.

- With the exception of hospital-related activities, all exercise play will take place in Green Hill Park in Worcester. Refreshments will be available in Green Hill Park and at the regional hospitals for those who participate in hospitals outside of Worcester.
- There will be video documentation of certain aspects of the exercise. Video footage will be used for evaluation of the exercise as well as for training of public safety, health, and homeland security stakeholders.
- Actions carried out by emergency personnel during the exercise will be highly realistic, and will likely include the use of unloaded weapons, tactical assault gear, and commando-style tactics; volunteers will, prior to committing to the exercise, be fully briefed by exercise support staff on what to expect.

All volunteers will be categorized to indicate their level of play and assigned a victim tag describing their symptoms. The number of volunteers in each category will be delineated and assigned by the hospitals, in agreement with participating volunteers. For planning and communication purposes, we request the following volunteer information:

- Volunteer first name
- Volunteer last name
- Volunteer phone number
- Volunteer e-mail address
- Affiliation (hospital, agency etc.)
- Volunteer category

Please note that all volunteers will be required to sign an Informed Consent/Hold Harmless Agreement and minors will need to bring a Minor Consent Form signed by a parent or legal guardian. These forms and additional information regarding the exercise will be posted to our website in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support of Operation MassDecon.

Note EMTs: The Continuing Education Course Number for this Exercise is 258168 for 8 Credit Hours